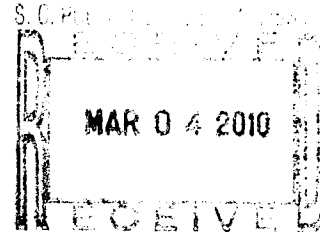


March 3, 2010

Helen M. Semken  
4846 Marshwood Drive  
Hollywood, SC 29449

Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main St.  
Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201




Dear Staff:

I have been following the articles in the Post and Courier concerning the rate increase of 9.52% that SCE&G is trying to impose on its customers. This has caused many angry customers including myself to protest this increase at a time when our unemployment rate is one of the highest in the nation, and we are in the middle of a recession. SCE&G is blaming this increase on federally mandated requirements to cut emissions at its coal-fired power plants.

Then I read in the Post and Courier on February 27, 2010 that Berkeley Electric is cutting its rates an average of 7.3% starting April 1. Since this is a non-profit organization it returns back any excess profits to their customers and is giving them a rate **decrease**.

My question is why does SCE&G have to make huge profits and bonus checks to their staff and raise their rates at a time when many people are living on fixed incomes with no raises in sight, or they have lost their jobs completely.

This seems to be totally unfair and I could not stand by and not voice my objection. I would like to request a public hearing to be placed in the Charleston area before the deadline. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
  
Helen Semken

cc: Public Service Commission  
101 Executive Center Drive  
Suite 100  
Columbia, SC 29210